BRETHREN DWELLING TOGETHER IN UNITY
PEACE ARCH
PARK PLAN

105-03380/

File. 2-7-6-1-27

APPROVAL

This Master Plan for Peace Arch Provincial Park has been reviewed and is approved.

Recommended: _____ Date: 25-3-80
Manager, Planning Section

Approved: _____ Date: March 26/80
Director, Planning & Design Branch

Lower Mainland Region
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division
Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing

North Vancouver, British Columbia

MASTER PLAN

FOR

PEACE ARCH PROVINCIAL PARK

M. H. TURNER

September 1979

C. J. VELAY

DIRECTOR

Mr. C. J. Velay
Director
Operations Branch

Mr. J. C. Lemar
Lower Mainland
Regional Manager

This Master Plan for Peace Arch Provincial Park

is submitted for your approval.

J. C. Lemar
Regional Manager

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

C. J. Velay
Director

RECOMMENDED: _____ DATE: _____

L. J. Strobel
Park Superintendent

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INTRODUCTION

Peace Arch Provincial Park, some 40 kilometres south of Vancouver (Figure 1), is unique in British Columbia's system of provincial parks. Its location on the 49th parallel, its planning and development in conjunction with the American state park, its formality of lawns and gardens in a provincial system that stresses natural themes, its use for large gatherings, its Peace Arch portal; all contribute to a provincial park unlike any other in British Columbia.

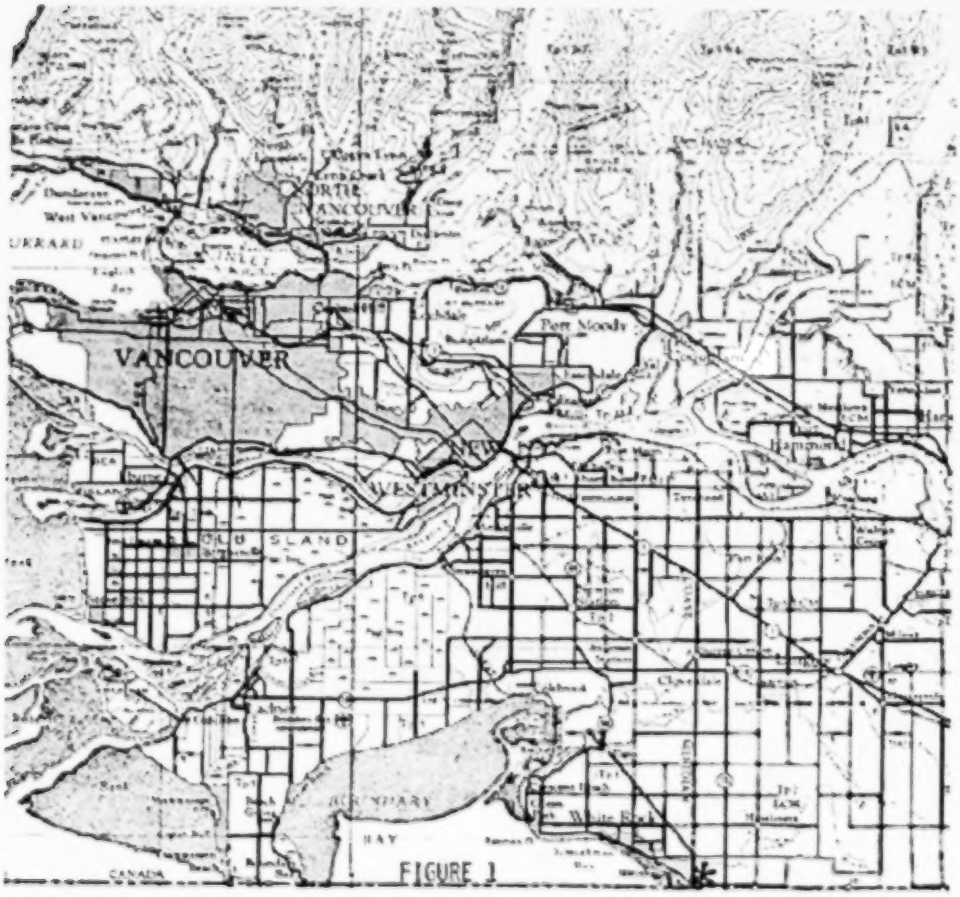

FIGURE 1

HISTORY

Although not dedicated as a provincial park until two decades later, the concept of an international park near Douglas was established in 1915, on the centenary of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent. The father of the Peace Arch was Samuel Hill of Seattle, who saw this as a monument to the concord between the United States and Canada. This, the world's first Peace Arch, was dedicated on September 6, 1921. The land for the Canadian side of the international park was acquired through the efforts of the International Peace Arch Memorial Association of British Columbia, with contributions from British Columbia school children.

Peace Arch Provincial Park was established in 1931, when initially some six hectares were set aside. John Booth, who worked as a gardener at Riverview Hospital, designed both the American and Canadian parks. It was Booth's concept to design the international park as one park, "carefully avoiding any feature that will convey the impression that there are two parks, or one large park divided into two parts."

Construction of the Canadian portion of the park began in the winter of 1938 when several camps of single, unemployed men cleared and graded the area around the Peace Arch. The work was completed in the spring of 1940 by a camp of men from the program of unemployed relief and a small camp of Youths Forestry Training boys.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

The first unit of the park, consisting of the central lawns and the lower east lawn, was completed in the spring of 1940, when the bulk of the planting was done in this area. The upper lawns were completed during the summer of 1940 and the lawn seeded and trees and shrubs planted during the fall and winter of 1940-41.

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PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE.

The summer house, constructed of the native woods of British Columbia, was erected in 1940.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE.

In 1948, Louis Ahlstrom constructed the picnic shelter and the toilet building.

VISITOR CHARACTERISTICS AND EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

In 1946, the park was receiving group picnics of over 5,000 people. Today, almost 200,000 people use the park for picnics and sightseeing; another 3 million people use it indirectly as they clear Canadian and American customs.

Peace Arch Park annually receives over 120 group outings, representing a variety of church, family, ethnic, school, senior, handicap and ad-hoc groups averaging 75 people. One group of 1,500 people visited in 1978.

Almost 40% of the people using the Canadian side of the park are from the United States. Photography, picnicking and walking are the primary activities of all visitors, with most use occurring in the early afternoon.

Figure 2 shows the existing development of the park.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

PARK OBJECTIVE

It is the purpose of Peace Arch Provincial Park to foster international relations and tourism, to welcome visitors to Canada and British Columbia, and to provide recreational opportunities associated with large gatherings. The development of the park will encourage the existing popular activities of photography, picnicking and walking.

ZONING

Under the zoning scheme, the entire park is zoned for recreation. Activity zones within the park are outlined in Figure 3.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

Peace Arch is probably the only major Provincial Park that is nearing final development. Figure 4 reflects the overall development for the park.

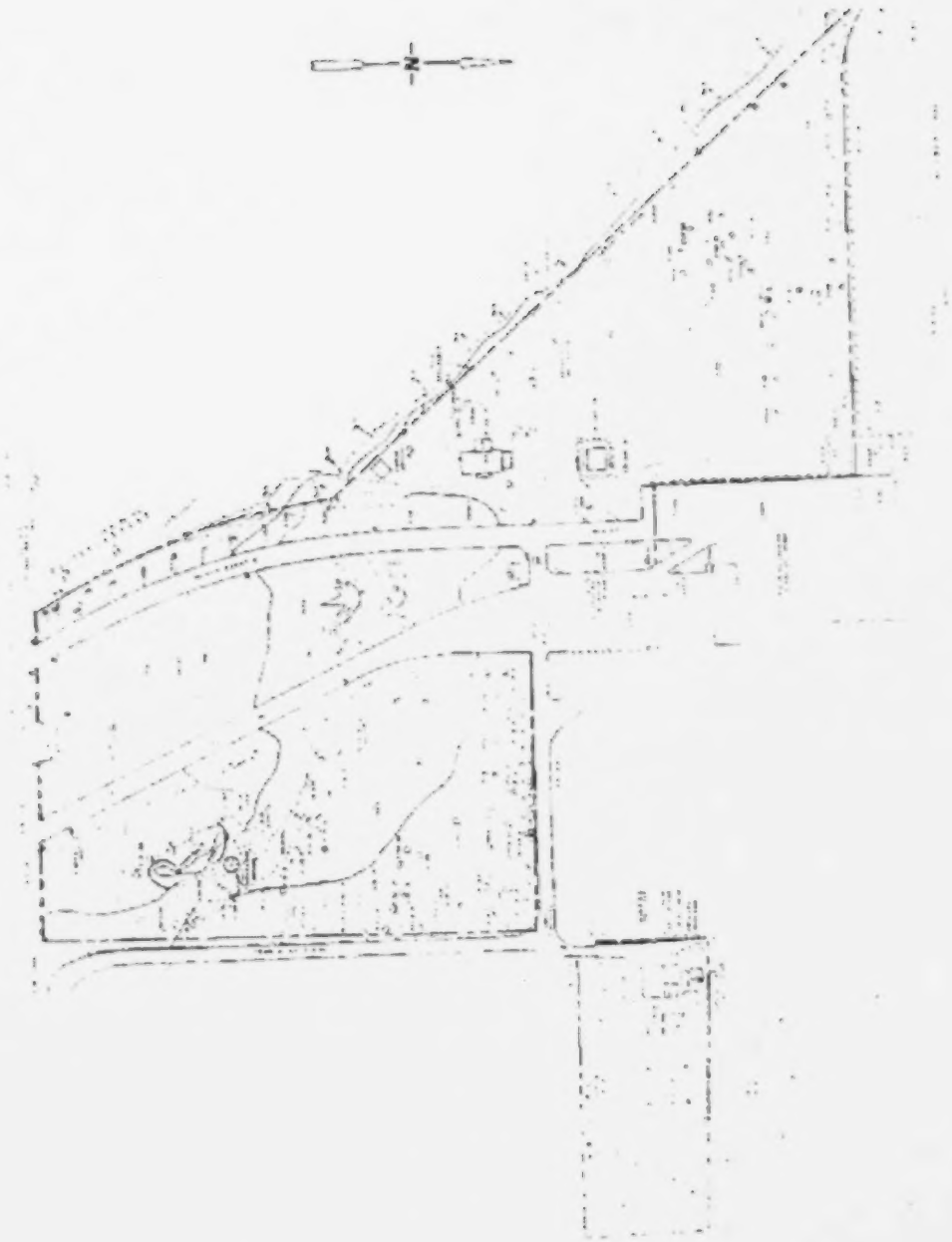
New facilities include the construction of a group barbecue shelter, designated beach access, and finalization of the parking areas.

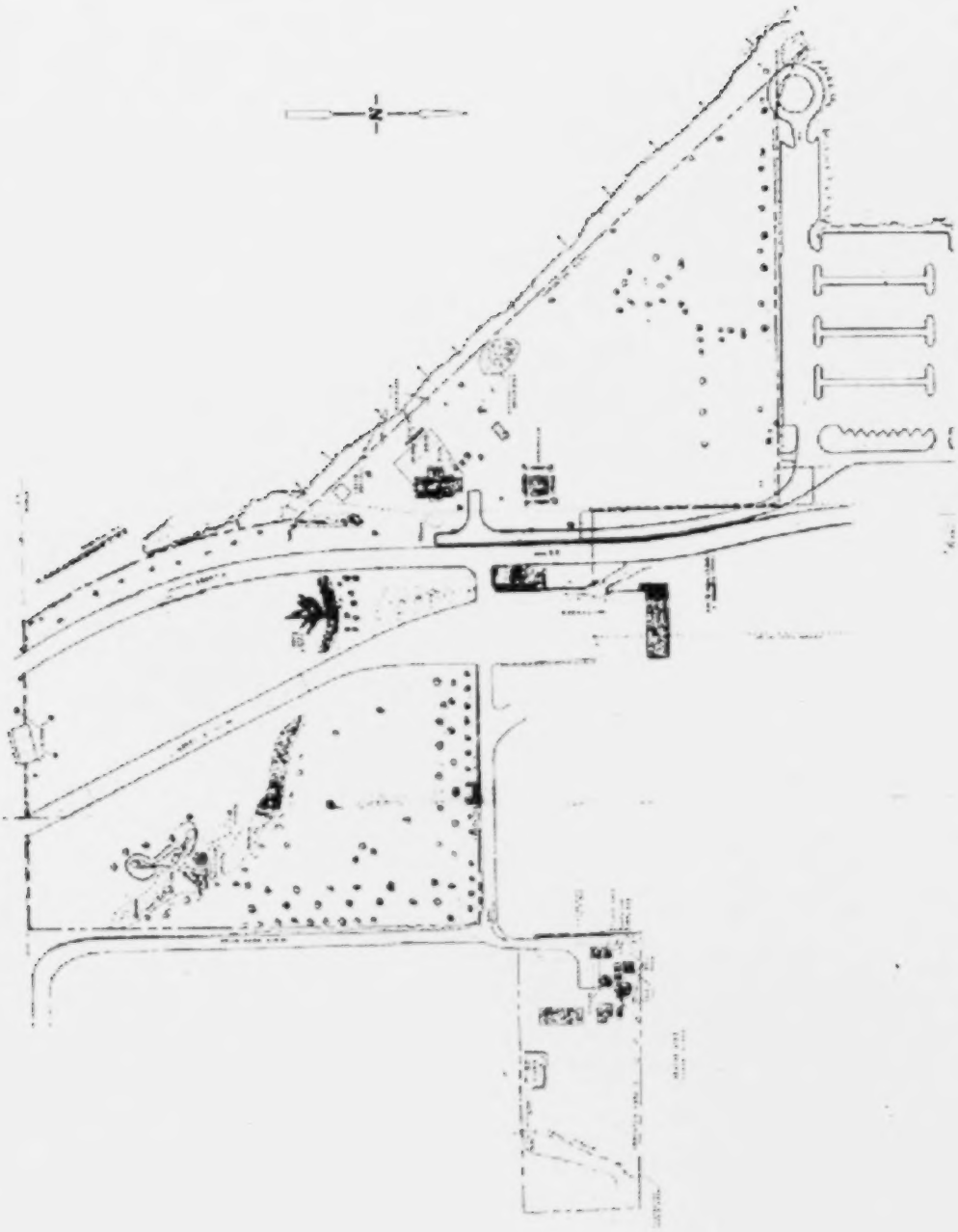
PRIORITIES

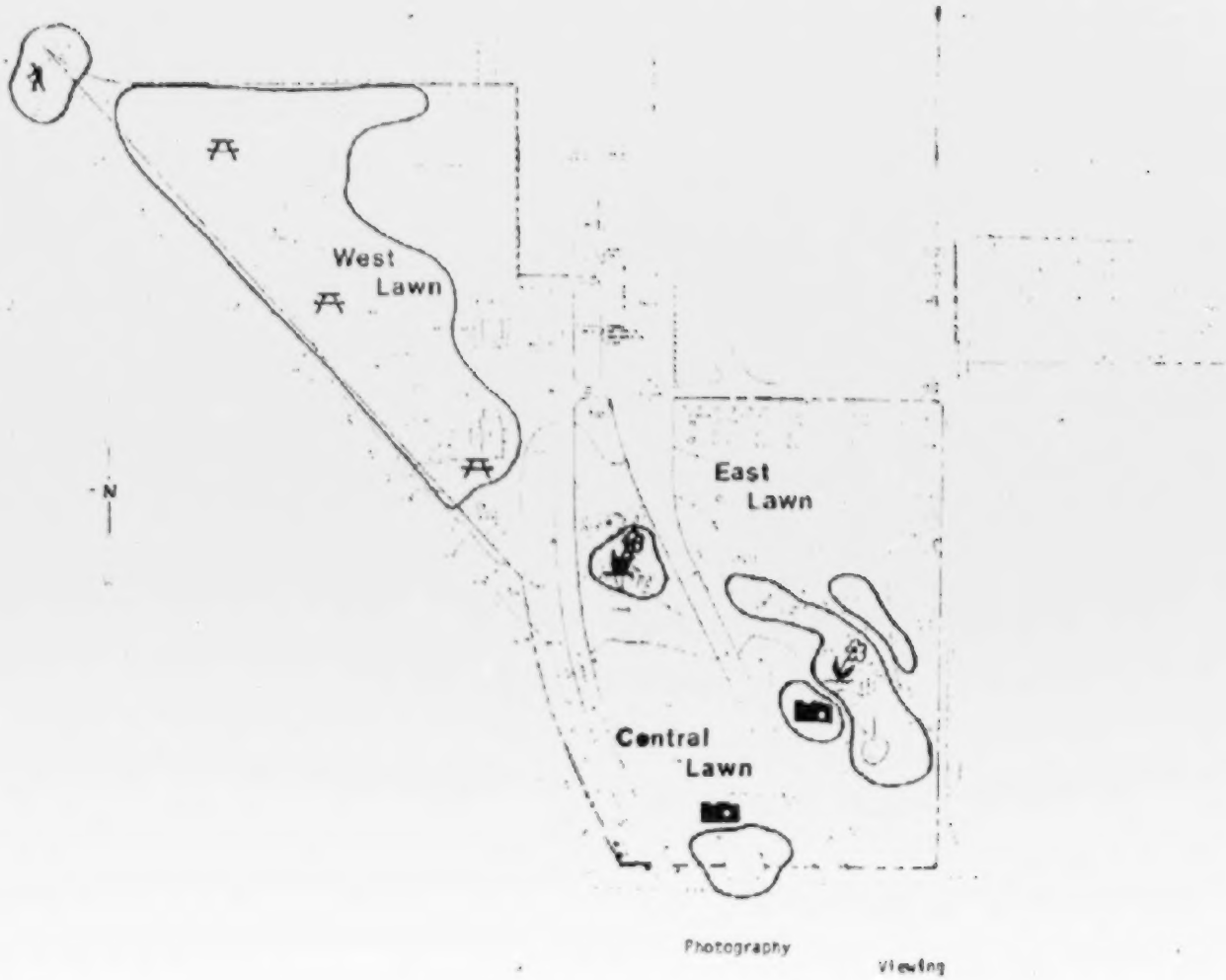
In addition to the annual maintenance and replacement programs associated with a formalized park of this nature, the proposed developments will reflect the current park boundaries. As such, the barbecue shelter and the turn-around will receive first priority for construction.

Negotiations will continue with the Federal Government to guarantee the existing parking for the East and West Lawns and with Burlington Northern Railway to provide beach access to Semiahmoo Bay.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE






West
Lawn
East
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Central
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Photography
Viewing